THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no train by the name of Pooja Express on Indian Railways. There is a train no. 2413/ 2414 between Jaipur-Delhi and train No. 2403/2404 between Delhi-Jammu Tawi which are together called by some people as Pooja Express and run with an integrated rake. At present, in this service, two-sleeper class through coaches are running between Jaipur and Jammu Tawi by 2413/2414 Jaipur-Delhi Express and 2403/ 2404 Delhi-Jammu Tawi Express. The passengers of Jaipur bound for Jammu Tawi can avail of this facility from Jaipur to Jammu Tawi directly. This information has been shown in Western Railway Public Time Table' 99 issue on page no. 22 under heading "Through and Sectional carriages services".

Palace on Wheels Train in Maharashtra

3766. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any plan to initiate a train "Palace on Wheels" in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Maharashtra Government has made a proposal in this regard; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken on that proposal and what is the status of that proposal, as on date, to boost tourism in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) A proposal for running a luxury train has been received from the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC). It has been decided, in principle, to run a luxury tourist train in Maharahstra along the Konkan Coast to Goa. The proposal is being examined and various modalities are being worked out in consultation with the MTDC.

Privatising the Railways Captive Units

3767. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to privatise the Railways Captive Units, manufacturing locomotives and coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that these units are already in profit and so, what are the specific reasons for privatising them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal for privatising Railways' Production Units. These units are run on cost basis and no profit is charged on their products, which are mainly for in-house consumption.

Agreement with KFW for Signalling Equipment

3768. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways had signed a loan agreement with KFW, Germany in August, 1997 for signalling equipment but the project element have still not been finalized;

(b) whether it is in violation of guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance;

(c) how much Commitment charges have been paid by Government so far due to non-utilisation of the loan; and

(d) whether it is proposed to take action against the officials responsible for the lapse in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. A Loan Agreement has been signed by the Government of India (in the Ministry of Finance) and Kreditanstalt for Wiederafbau (KFW), Germany on 1st August, 1997 for financing a project of Modernization of Signalling between Delhi and Kanpur. After a review of the project components, the Railways have proposed certain modifications in the project scope including technological options, and an expert study to go into related issues has since been commissioned.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No commitment charges have yet been paid by the Government against this loan. However, the Loan Agreement provides for payment of commitment